Howland Wood - Curatorial

Sawhill, John A.

[The State Teacher's College
Harrisonburg, VA]

1932-1934

THE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

March 14, 1932

The American Numismatic Society
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Professor David M. Robinson of Johns Hopkins University writes me that I may be able to procure some Greek coins through your efforts. He says that the ordinary type of Athens or Corinth are worth about four or five dollars. I should like to get several representative coins, not only Greek but also Roman. Prof. Robinson tells me that the Roman are worth about one or two dollars.

When in Richmond last Christmas attending the meetings of the Philological and Archaeological associations, I sat next to a gentleman from your society at the banquet. Before leaving Richmond in an old antique shop I found five Roman coins which I bought for four dollars - Only one - Trajan - is in a good state of preservation. The others were badly rubbed and Prof. Robinson kindly reproduced the inscriptions for me.

I am enclosing two coins of which I am curious as to their meaning and worth. One I obtained in Crete two years ago and the other one I got in Richmond last Christmas. If you can tell me something about these and also advise me about the acquisition of some Greek and Roman coins, I shall be very grateful. My Greek and Latin students are also greatly interested in coins.

Yours very truly,
John A. Sawhill

March 17, 1932.

Dr. J. A. Sawhill
The State Teachers College
Harrisonburg, Va.

Dear Dr. Sawhill:

Under separate cover we are sending you a few Greek and Roman coins with our price marked on each envelope. All of these coins are absolutely genuine. If you care for any of these you can remit and return the balance. In the same package we are enclosing the two coins you sent on. One of these is a coin struck by Crete during the Venetian rule. It is worth just a few cents. The other coin is an absolute fabrication of a Jewish copper coin although it looks nothing like what it is probably intended to copy. I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

THE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

Oct. 6, 1932

The American Numismatic Society
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I was very glad to get Mr. Noe's letter in June with the list of publications that you have. When my finances permit I hope to purchase a good many of your books.

In some correspondence with Mr. Newell he mentioned that Venetian ducats cost ordinarily from $3 to $5. You no doubt read in the New York Times a few days ago about the rare Morisini coins placed on exhibition at American Art Association Anderson Galleries and to be sold next Monday afternoon.

I have obtained quite a number of Greek and Roman coins from Mr. Daniel Kellad of Jersey City. I have written to him to see if he was attending this sale of the Morisini coins and to get me one or two or three good Venetian specimens and also one of Florence if there were any. I don't know whether Mr. Kellad is going to attend this sale and thought that perhaps Mr. Noe or Mr. Newell or Mr. Wood might be attending. If any of you should do so and do not see Mr. Kellad there, I should be very grateful if you would get me a specimen or two. I do not know what price they will go at. I can invest forty or fifty dollars at present. Should you get them for me I shall be glad to pay you whatever your commission may be.

Yours very truly,

John A. Sawhill

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Some time ago Mr. Kellad told me that he had a ten ducat gold coin approved by Mr. Wood. He offered it for $25 ⁼. It was Aloisio Mocenigo IX (1762-1779). I have not been in correspondence with him for some time. He said that he had very little experience with mediaeval numismatics, so I told him that if he saw any of you at the sale he might confer with you. I regret that I can not be in New York to see this marvelous collection and do some buying directly. It may be that these coins are so rare that only a great deal of money will buy them.

J. A. S.

One of my chief reasons for getting these coins is to show them in connection with my lectures on Venice and Florence, Venice particularly.

October 11, 1932.

Dr. John A. Sawhill
178 South Mason Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Dear Dr. Sawhill:

Your letter concerning Venetian ductas in the Morosini sale at hand. I was unable to comply with your request because no single ductas were sold separately. These ducats were all grouped in one lot of twenty-three pieces and I knew that you did not want twenty-three of them so did not bid. Also, there were no Florentine ductas sold separately. The ten ducat pieces that Mr. Kellad had and which he offered to you for $25.00 is cheap enough, even though it is in what we might call ppor condition. They are worth from two to three times that amount.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

THE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

178 So. Mason St.
Oct. 29, 1932.

Mr. Howland Wood
American Num. Soc.
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for your letter of Oct. 11 regarding the Morosini coins. Mr. Kellad sent me a fine ducat gold coin of Leopold I of which I am greatly pleased. It was very kind of you to give Mr. Kellad the full inscription. He also sent a laurel and half laurel of Jones I concerning which I asked some questions which he will perhaps ask you.

A few days ago I got some coins from a man near here and I would appreciate it greatly if you or Mr. Newell would give me information about them as to their present value, inscriptions, ~~etc.~~ dates, etc. I wondered if this type of Trajan were rather rare. I was curious about the two small coins as I had never seen any like them before. As for the other coin, the man said it had been found when excavating in Palestine or some near by country. I should like to know all about this particular coin and know what it is worth today. I am enclosing some stamps for sending those back. I notice in your list of publications a set of Numismatics from 1913 to 1930. I am rather low on cash now but hope soon to get a number of your pub-

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lications. I am coming to have quite a great interest in coins and thought that this would be of considerable value to me. How often a year does this periodical appear? If you happen to have a sample copy I should appreciate receiving one, or if there is any charge I shall gladly pay it. I notice also that you have an index to American Journal of Numismatics, and so I assume that this publication is also current.

Yours very truly,

John A. Sawhill

THE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

November 7, 1932

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numis. Soc.
New York City

Dear Mr. Wood:

October 29 I sent you a letter by registered mail (No. 1406) enclosing a few coins concerning which I was making some inquiries which either you or Mr. Newell might be able to answer. I also enclosed postage for their return. Please let me know if you received my letter, so that in case you did not I may have a tracer put on it. I was beginning to get worried about the coins, and I hope that they have not gone astray.

I also addressed inquiries concerning the Amer. Journal of Numismatics and the Numismatist. I find the subject of coins - particularly Greek and Roman - to be very fascinating. It is interesting to learn how they are discovered. Would you recommend Noe: A Bibliography of Greek Coin Hoards, 1925, as a good one to begin with? I am enclosing check for $2.50. I do not suppose that this duplicates in any way Head's History Numorum, which I have not yet obtained, but which I hope to get soon.

Yours very truly,

John A. Sawhill

November 9, 1932.

Dr. John A. Sawhill
The State Teachers College
Harrisonburg, Va.

Dear Dr. Sawhill:

I beg to apologize for not acknowledging your registered letter of October 29th. On receipt of this I put it on Mr. Newell's desk for him to go over the ancient coins and he has not been in since then. He should be in in a day or so now and I will then answer the questions concerning these.

As for the small copper coinsfound in Palestine or somewhere else it is a coin struck by Mahrattas of India about one hundred years ago. They are exceedingly common and have no value. I very much doubt if it was found in any tomb.

We do have on hand certain years of the Numismatist. The first volume of this was about 1890 and is still published as a monthly magazine by the American Numismatic Association. We have nothing to do with this organization except that about all of us are members of it. I am enclosing a circular of it. I am sending, under separate, a copy of this magazine. It takes up modern coins chiefly. Very seldom does there appear anything on ancient coins. It also gives notices and reports of all meetings of the various numismatic clubs and societies throughout the country and tells of present day happenings.

The American Journal of Numismatics was discontinued several years ago. This has appeared in the course of its existence as a quarterly and a yearly. The earlier numbers had little on ancient coins; the later ones had much. The yearly and some of the quarterly volumes were issued at $5.00, the earlier ones at $2.00. The complete set would cost over $100.00. We have a few of these on hand.

Noe's Bibliography of Greek Coin Hoards is simply a catalogue of the different hoards that have been enumerated, stating where found, if known, and the approximate contents of the hoard with the references that mention the hoard. It gives no details of the coins found in the hoard. It is really for the advanced student. Head's Historia would be about as good a book as you could get on Greek coins. I am holding your check to see what final disposition you want made of it.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

November 9, 1932.

Dr. John A. Sawhill
The State Teachers College
Harrisonburg, Va.

Dear Dr. Sawhill:

I have just seen Mr. Newell and he has attributed the three Roman coins for you. The Trajan coin is not rare nor are the two small coins. As I do not know what your check is really for I am returning it.

Very truly yours,

HM:JG

Curator

THE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

178 So. Main St.
Dec. 18, 1932

Mr. Howland Wood
Amer. Numis. Soc.
Newport, R.I.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Please pardon your letter (of Nov. 9) and the copy of the Numismatist.

I am not sure, but I may be in New York Dec. 27 or 31, either stopping on my way up to Syracuse or coming back when I attend the meetings of the American Philological Society. Please let me know when your museum is open. I should like to see Mr. Newell sometime about Greek & Roman coins. I am not even yet so to whether I shall make the trip, but the chances are that I will.

Yours very truly

John A. Fowler

December 19, 1932.

Dr. John A.Sawhill
The State Teachers College
Harrisonburg, Va.

Dear Dr. Sawhill:

Your letter just at hand and I will be in New York probably on the 27th, 28th, 29th and 31st. I probably will not be in on the 30th. Mr. Newell will be away all of that week.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

THE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

178 So. Mason St.
March 14, 1933.

Mr. Rowland Wood
Numis. Soc. of America
Newgang City.

My dear Mr. Wood:

A friend of mine has a coin stamped 1812 whose symbols he would like to know the significance of. I suppose that the coin has very slight value. I shall greatly appreciate any information you can give. I am enclosing a three cent stamp for postage.

A short time ago I got some miscellaneous coins. One of them is evidently an old Phoenician or Egyptian coin for it has an eagle on one side. Would your assistant — Mr. Robertson I believe is his name — be willing to put this in the solution that requires several weeks to restore the coin to its original condition? I shall be glad to pay whatever the charge may be. Perhaps upon examining it, you may consider that the restoration is not worth bothering with.

Yours very truly,

John G. Lawhile

March 18, 1933.

Dr. John A. Sawhill
The State Teachers College
Harrisonburg, Va.

Dear Dr. Sawhill:

Your letter with the two coins came the other day. I have put the Egyptian one in one of our baths and eventually you will hear concerning it. The coin dated 1812 is known as a Morelos coin, struck during the revolution against Spain and Mexico.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

THE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

January 25, 1934

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numis. Soc.
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

A neighbor dig up the two enclosed specimens in his garden a few months ago. He would like to know about them particularly the larger as to what kind of a coin it is and of what material whether gold or not. He would like to know if it is of any value. As to the smaller one, I can read the Latin, but do not know whether it is a coin or some medal. I will appreciate any light you can give on these two.

If Mr. Newell should have any duplicates of Jewish, Greek, or Roman coins, I should be glad to know. He may have some which would supplement my collection. I have been getting some very nice ones from Spink in London. I have recently become interested in Greek bronze.

Sincerely yours,
John A. Sawhill

January 27, 1934.

Mr. John A. Sawhill
The State Teachers College
Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Sawhill:

The larger coin you sent on is a worn English penny. It is in circulation in England today. The other piece is simply a German card counter made of brass and has no value.

Very truly yours,

HM:JC

Curator